

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017, AT 3.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor S. Keary, Mayor.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Browne, Butler, Collins (J), Collins (M), Costelloe, Crowley, Donegan, Galvin, Gilligan, Gleeson, Hogan, Hourigan, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, McMahon, Mitchell, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, O’Dea, O’Donnell, O’Donoghue, O’Hanlon, Pond, Prendiville, Ryan, Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (M), Sheehy, Teefy, Teskey.

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Hurley.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray), Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Economic Development (Mr. P. Daly), Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), A/Director, Social Development (Ms. C. Kirby), Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Service Operations and Business Improvement (Mr. G. Daly), A/Director, Support Services – Finance, Corporate, Human Resources and ICT (Mr. S. Coughlan), A/Senior Planner, Economic Development (Ms. M. Woods), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O’Connor), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox), Administrative Officer, Property Services (Mr. J. Clune).

**Civic Reception – Irish Referee, Joy Neville**

At the outset and with the permission of the Mayor, Councillor Lynch extended congratulations to Irish Referee, Joy Neville, who had been named ‘World Rugby Referee of the Year’ at the World Rugby Awards in Monaco. Councillor Lynch proposed that a Civic Reception be held by the Council to mark her success.

In response, the Mayor said he too wished to congratulate Joy Neville on her achievements and that he would be delighted to host a reception in due course.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch;

Seconded by Councillor Keary;

And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby to the grant of a Civic Reception to honour Joy Neville, in accordance with Section 74 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

## **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copies of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Special Meeting of the Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.
- (b) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.
- (c) Adjourned Meeting of the Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.
- (d) Special Meeting of the Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, to discuss Housing Action Plan.
- (e) Special Meeting of the Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, to discuss Ward's Cross and other junctions on the N21.
- (f) Special Meeting of the Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, to discuss Proposed Variations to Limerick County Development Plan 2016 and Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2011-2017.
- (g) Budget Meeting of the Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;

And Resolved:

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed.”

## **2. Disposal of Land**

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017, concerning disposal of property at Clashganniff, Shanagolden, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);

And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at Clashganniff, Shanagolden, Co. Limerick to Michael Moroney for the sum of €95.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017.”

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, concerning disposal of the freehold interest in property at Caherduff, Manister, Croom, Co. Limerick, together with Memorandum to the Chief Executive from Ms. Joan O'Shea, Community Support Services, dated 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, setting out the background to this disposal.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);

And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the freehold interest in property at Caherduff, Manister, Croom, Co. Limerick, to Nora Quain, for the sum of €96,100, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Transfer of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property in order to regularise the original disposal of the property under the Tenant Purchase in 2008 which was not finalised, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.”

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, concerning disposal of property at 8 Ballyclough Avenue, Ballinacurra Weston, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 8 Ballyclough Avenue, Ballinacurra Weston, Limerick, to Thomas McNamara and Annette Malone (Legal Personal Representatives of the late Catherine McNamara), for the sum of €95.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.”

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, concerning disposal of property at 19, Galvone Road, Kennedy Park, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 19, Galvone Road, Kennedy Park, Limerick, to Joseph deLoughrey, for the sum of €100.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.”

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, concerning disposal of property at 35, Greenhills Road, Garryowen, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 35, Greenhills Road, Garryowen, Limerick, to Mary and William Walsh, for the sum of €95.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.”

- (f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, concerning disposal of property at 28, Marian Avenue, Roxboro, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 28, Marian Avenue, Roxboro, Limerick, to Seamus Quirke, for the sum of €139.45, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.”

- (g) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, concerning disposal of property at 8, Island Road, Assumpta Park, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 8, Island Road, Assumpta Park, Limerick, to Mary Barry (Legal Personal Representative of the late Noreen Buckley), for the sum of €95.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.”

- (h) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, concerning disposal of the freehold interest in property at Caheranardish, Mungret, Co. Limerick (Folio LK5782L).

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to disposal of the freehold interest in property at Caheranardish, Mungret, Co. Limerick (Folio LK5782L) to John Joe Hallinan, for the sum of €95.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.”

- (i) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, concerning disposal of property at 52, Galtee Drive, O’Malley Park, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 52, Galtee Drive, O’Malley Park, Limerick, to Patricia and Gerard Cusack, 208 Valley View, O’Malley Park, Limerick - the disposal to be made in consideration of Patricia and Gerard Cusack transferring the ownership of their property at 208 Valley View, O’Malley Park, Limerick, to Limerick City and County Council – (i) the disposal to be by way of exchange of the above properties to Limerick City and County Council (subject to necessary conveyancing requirements); (2) Limerick City and County Council to acquire the property free of any existing mortgage(s) or burden(s) and any existing mortgages or burdens on the property at 208 Valley View, O’Malley Park, to be transferred to the property at 52, Galtee Drive, O’Malley Park, Limerick, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.”

- (j) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, concerning disposal of the freehold interest (ground rent) in property at 74, Clare Street, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the freehold interest (ground rent) at 74, Clare Street, Limerick, to Casabella Furnishings Limited (trading as James Clery Furniture and Flooring), the holders of a leasehold interest in the land for a period of 99 years from 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1970, at an annual rent of €0.06, for the sum of €1,425 plus a contribution of €615 towards the Council’s Valuer’s fees, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.”

### **3. Support Services Directorate**

#### **(a) Chief Executive’s Report**

Circulated, Chief Executive’s Reports for the months of September and October 2017.

The Chief Executive’s Reports were noted by the Members.

#### **(b) Filling of Vacancies – Joint Policing Committee**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Browne;  
Seconded by Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh;

“That, Councillor Costelloe be appointed to the Joint Policing Committee to fill the vacancy consequent on the resignation of Councillor McMahon from the Committee.”

Proposed by Councillor Teefy;  
Seconded by Councillor Loftus;

“That, Councillor Gilligan be appointed to the Joint Policing Committee to fill the vacancy consequent on the resignation of Councillor Leddin from the Committee.”

As there were no other nominations, the Mayor declared Councillors Costelloe and Gilligan appointed to fill the vacancies on the Joint Policing Committee for the remainder of the lifetime of the current Council.

**(c) Filling of Vacancy – Limerick Sports Partnership**

Circulated, correspondence dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017, from Mr. Phelim Macken, Coordinator, Limerick Sports Partnership, advising that the Council’s nominee to the Board, Councillor Sean Lynch, had retired, in accordance with the company rules, at the Board Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2017, and inviting the Council to nominate a Member to the Board.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Crowley, Councillor Pond was appointed to the Board of the Limerick Sports Partnership to replace Councillor Lynch.

**(d) Provision of €85m Loan by the European Investment Bank**

Circulated, report from the A/Head of Finance dated 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, seeking the approval of the Council, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, to (i) the entry by the Council into the finance contract for €85m with the European Investment Bank and the terms thereof and to ratify as at the signature date, and (ii) the entry by the Council into future drawdown (disbursements) requests with the European Investment Bank in relation to this loan facility and provide all certificates as requested.

Proposed by Councillor Crowley;  
Seconded by Councillor Ryan;  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to (i) the entry by Limerick City and County Council into the finance contract for €85m with the European Investment Bank and the terms thereof and to ratify as at the signature date, and (ii) the entry by Limerick City and County Council into future drawdown (disbursements) requests with the European Investment Bank in relation to this loan facility and provide all certificates as requested.”

**(e) Newcastle West Community Council Twinning Project**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

The report stated that Newcastle West Community Council was proposing to re-activate a twinning arrangement with Pelplin near Gdansk in Poland. A delegation of five people from Newcastle West Community Council had visited Pelplin in September 2017 and the total cost incurred by the Twinning Committee for the visit was €1,093.25. It was recommended that the Council fund 50% of this expenditure, subject to a maximum of €1,000. The Council's approval for the provision of financial assistance in the amount of €546.63 towards the cost of this twinning initiative was required.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the provision of financial assistance in the amount of €546.63 to Newcastle West Community Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

**(f) Proposed Visit to Madrid**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017, seeking the approval of the Council to proposed visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Madrid and setting out the background to the visit.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to proposed visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Madrid, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

**(g) Strategic Policy Committee Reports**

- (i) Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017.

Councillor O'Donnell, Chair of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee, presented an overview of matters discussed at the Meeting and outlined the following Recommendations which were agreed at the SPC Meeting:

### **Recommendation No. 1**

**“That, Limerick City and County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to develop a 'downsizing' scheme as part of the ongoing review of 'Rebuilding Ireland - Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness,' in order to facilitate subdivision, extension or adaption of existing private under-occupied housing units. It is anticipated that this scheme would act as a catalyst for the creation of additional housing units and optimise the utilisation of existing housing stock.”**

### **Recommendation No. 2**

**“That, Limerick City and County Council commence a survey of vacant residential units across the City and County.”**

On the proposal of Councillor O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Mitchell, both Recommendations were agreed.

- (ii) Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.

### **Recommendation**

**“That, Limerick City and County Council opposes any attempt to re-route the proposed motorway link between Cork and Limerick through Tipperary, further isolating West Limerick.”**

The Chief Executive stated that there was still substantial work to be done in relation to this matter. It was agreed to defer discussion on this item until such time as a full report was prepared and submitted to Council for consideration. It was also agreed that this matter should be referred back to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

- (iii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee dated 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.



### **Recommendation**

**“That, Limerick City and County Council ensures “accessibility for all” is embedded in all Council policy documents going forward.”**

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Galvin, the Recommendation was agreed.

- (v) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017.

Councillor Scanlan, Chair of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee, presented an overview of matters discussed at the Meeting and outlined the following Recommendation which was agreed at the SPC Meeting:

### **Recommendation**

**“That, Limerick City and County Council, being deeply concerned with the Government’s new waste management proposals, write to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Mr. Denis Naughten, T.D., asking him to stop these new changes, establish a national regulator, introduce more measures to reduce, reuse and recycle waste, and introduce supports for low income families and those with medical conditions.”**

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor O’Donnell, the Recommendation was agreed.

Councillor Prendiville referred to a second Recommendation in relation to the Environmental Protection Agency which had been agreed by the Environment Strategic Policy Committee but which had subsequently been ruled out of order by the Corporate Policy Group. He asked for Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting where this Recommendation had been discussed to be circulated to all Members.

## **4. Economic Development Directorate**

### **(a) Opera Centre Site**

The Chief Executive stated that in order for a Local Authority to carry out any substantial development, it would be necessary to go through a consultation process, known as a Part VIII process. He added that if the proposed development was of such scale that it required an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), then the Local Authority would be required to apply to An Bord Pleanála to proceed.

With regard to the Opera Site, he said that the consultation process under the Part VIII Regulations had begun on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2017. A total of 38 submissions had been received. While the submissions covered a number of issues, the one that was of concern was the question raised as to the absence of an EIAR.

He said it was important to point out that the proposed development was, from a technical perspective, sub-threshold and that the screening report carried out by the Consultants supported that position.

The Chief Executive went on to say that, having considered the submissions and in particular the issues raised in relation to the absence of an EIAR, and the legal advice sought in relation to the questions raised, he had determined that an EIAR should be prepared. He added that this had the effect of recommencing the planning process by applying to An Bord Pleanála for approval. The consequences of this approach would be a delay of a number of months in the planning process. However, this approach would minimise the risk of substantial delay which could be associated with projects of this scale. This approach would also deal with the concerns raised through the consultation process to date.

He concluded by stating that it was important to point out that this would not delay the preparations for the development of the site in terms of its timelines as the project management phase would run in tandem with the planning process.

In response to queries from Members, the Chief Executive reiterated that, in this instance, the Council was now the applicant for this development and that he would consult with the Full Council before submitting the application to An Bord Pleanála. He assured the Members that he would listen to the views of the majority of Full Council.

## **(b) Limerick Digital Strategy**

At the outset of consideration of this item, the Mayor extended congratulations to Limerick.ie and Limerick Regeneration who had both scooped top awards at this year's Excellence in Local Government Awards. He added that *Limerick.ie*, which was one of the world's top 25 tourism websites, had won the Outstanding Customer Service Award, while Regeneration had won the Promoting Economic Development category for its work in the Hospitality Education and Training Centre based in the Innovation Hub in Roxboro. He said great credit was due to the teams involved for their hard work and for the dedication they had shown in providing the best for the people of Limerick.

The Members and Chief Executive joined with the Mayor in congratulating all involved.

Circulated, report of the Head of Digital Strategy dated 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, enclosing (i) **Draft Strategy** and (ii) **Draft Smart Limerick Roadmap**, in relation to "Building Ireland's First Digital City – Towards a Sustainable Smart Limerick City, Region and Communities."

The Head of Digital Strategy delivered a PowerPoint presentation on Limerick's Digital Strategy entitled "Towards a Sustainable Smart Limerick City, Region and Communities" under the following headings:

**Limerick 2030 – Smarter Ways of Working:**

- Citizen Engagement.
- Leadership and Collaboration.
- Effective Use of Data.
- Integrated ICT Infrastructure.

**Collaboration and Leadership:**

- Limerick Charter (Partnerships – Public, Private, Academia, Community and Voluntary).
- Council Digital Champions Forum (24 Members).
- Limerick Digital Leaders' Network (37 members from 28 organisations).

**Strategy Approach:**

- 10 Programmes -
  - Engagement and Participation – Consultation and Collaboration.
  - (ii) Information and Marketing – limerick.ie
  - (iii) Service Integration Platform – My Limerick.
  - (iv) Digital Infrastructure – NBP, Wifi, Fibre, IoT, CCTV, MDN.
  - Data and Analytics – Insight Limerick Platform.
  - Digital Transformation – Council Programme.
  - Service Innovation – Cross-Agency Services.
  - Governance, Strategy and Policy.
  - Leadership and Supporting Structures.
  - Digital Age – Research and Development.
- 125 projects – 26 completed, 44 in progress, 55 planned.
- 60 Champions, 28 Partner Organisations.
- Funding - €3.5m Limerick City and County Council investment; €2.5m external; €2.5m planned; €6.5m sought EU – H2020.

Roadmap Highlights were outlined in the areas of Physical, Economic and Social Development.

**Customer Service and Service Operations:**

- My Limerick – 50 new online services, payments, licences, permits.
- 10% increase in customer satisfaction.
- Smart Operations: 100 users of Mobile CRM.
- Programme and Project Management.

### **Support Services Highlights:**

- Information Management – LITe Programme.
- 950 users using Electronic Records.
- Municipal Data Network.
- Wide Area Network.
- New Telephony System, Video Conferencing, Council Podcasts.

### **Immediate Next Steps:**

- Citizen Engagement Model and Platform.
- Insight Limerick: Data as a Service.
- Smart Operations and Citizen Experience.

### **Smart Limerick 2025:**

- Data, Automation, Artificial Intelligence.
- 1,000 Smart Homes.
- 100 Smart Buildings.
- Smart Energy Districts.

The Members thanked the Head of Digital Strategy for his interesting and comprehensive presentation. They acknowledged the work done to date in this area and welcomed the innovative and strategic plans for the future.

Proposed by Councillor Donegan;  
Seconded by Councillor Leddin;  
And Resolved:

“That, the Limerick Digital Strategy, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

### **(c) Issues Paper for the Regional and Spatial Economic Strategy for the Southern Region**

Circulated, (i) Southern Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, Southern Region - Issues Paper – Initial Public and Stakeholder Consultation – November 2017; and (ii) Notice in relation to Pre-Draft Public Consultation.

The A/Senior Planner addressed the Meeting on this item by stating the purpose of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) in terms of supporting the implementation of the National Planning Framework; the purpose of the RSES Issues Paper which was to seek public views on what should be included in the Strategy; the fact that the RSES would influence and guide Limerick’s Development Plan and Local Area Plans over the next 12 years, the content of the proposed Strategy i.e. location, form and density of housing, location of employment, Metropolitan Area Strategic Plans, key growth enablers. She concluded by stating that the closing date for public submissions was 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

A lengthy discussion took place on the item and the following points were made by Members:

- Members expressed their disappointment with the document.
- They asked who was rejecting the Council's submission.
- As there was no town in Limerick with a population of over 10,000, this would mean that Limerick would lose out.
- It was noted that a submission made to the Regional Assembly had not been taken into account.
- It was said that the Department and the Regional Assembly should abandon limit on growth and percentages.
- Shannon Airport was a critical piece of infrastructure and there was no mention of it in the National Planning Framework.
- Need for Workshop and Special Meeting to further discuss the matter and prepare submission.
- Plan gave Dublin and Cork more advantage over Limerick and would add to rural depopulation.
- Plan had opposite effect in terms of re-addressing balanced regional development.
- Investment in Limerick should be recognised.

The Chief Executive said that the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy were a critical issue for Limerick in terms of capacity to grow. He also expressed concern in relation to the tight timeline proposed - it was proposed to have the RSES adopted by end of December 2018. He confirmed that the Council had engaged with all relevant agencies from the very start and that this was its strength, and he assured the Members that he would bring these groups/agencies back together again in relation to preparation of the RSES submission.

It was agreed that a Workshop and Special Meeting would be arranged on the issue as a matter of urgency.

## **5. Regional Services Directorate**

### **(a) Cultural Strategic Policy Committee**

Circulated, report of the Director of Regional Services dated 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017.

The report set out the background to the setting up of the Committee and outlined the membership which would comprise the following:

- 16 Elected Members (including the Chair-Designate, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, who had been appointed at Meeting of the Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.)
- 8 Sectoral Interests Nominees, some of whom would be via the Public Participation Network; and
- 4 Culture and Arts Sector Nominees - to be filled by Open Call to Cultural and Arts Sector.

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Council was now required to consider the nomination of Elected Members to the newly established Cultural Strategic Policy Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;

“That, the following Members be appointed to the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee - Councillors Sheehy, Loftus, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh (Chair), Leddin, O’Hanlon, Collins (J), Collins (M), O’Dea, Lynch, Sheahan (K), Hogan, Scanlan, Keary, Hurley, Mitchell, Sheahan (M).”

Councillor Prendiville had concerns that his Party was not represented on the Committee.

In response, the Meetings Administrator stated that where 2 or more persons were to be appointed to a Committee, the Grouping System in accordance with Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, applied. He read into the record of the Meeting the relevant legislation as follows:

- (a) Any group of Members who are present at the Meeting at the time when the business of making the appointments is reached and comprising the number of Members necessary for the purposes of this paragraph may nominate a person to be a member of that body and the person shall be so appointed on that nomination without any vote being taken, and***
- (b) The Members of the Body then remaining to be appointed shall be appointed successively by the Members of the Local Authority who are not members of any group referred to in clause (a) and who were present at the Meeting at the time when the business of making the appointments was reached.***
- (2) (a) Subject to clause (b), the number of Members necessary to form a group for the purposes of this paragraph shall be obtained by dividing the total number of Members present at the Meeting of the Authority at the time when the business of making the relevant appointments is reached by the number of the appointments to be so made, or, where the number so obtained is not a whole number, the whole number next above the number so obtained.***
- (b) No Member of a Local Authority shall be a member of more than one group for the purposes of this paragraph.***

To allow the Members to further discuss the matter themselves, it was agreed to take a 5-minute adjournment.

On resumption, the Meetings Administrator took a roll-call, as set out below, of the number of Members present at the Meeting in order to determine the number of Members necessary to form a Group for the purposes of nominating Members to the Committee in question:

Councillors Browne, Butler, Collins (J), Collins (M), Costelloe, Crowley, Donegan, Galvin, Gilligan, Gleeson, Hogan, Hourigan, Keary, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, McCreesh, McMahon, Mitchell, Cmhr. Ó Ceallaigh, O’Dea, O’Donnell, O’Donoghue, O’Hanlon, Pond, Prendiville, Ryan, Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (M), Sheehy, Teefy, Teskey. **(34)**

The Meetings Administrator stated that as there were 34 Members in attendance, the number required to form a Group in this case, if so desired, was 3.

In the absence of any Group being nominated, the Mayor declared the following Members appointed to the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee, as proposed earlier by Councillor Sheahan (J) and seconded by Councillor Hourigan:

Councillors Sheehy, Loftus, Cmhr. Ó Ceallaigh (Chair), Leddin, O’Hanlon, Collins (J), Collins (M), O’Dea, Lynch, Sheahan (K), Hogan, Scanlan, Keary, Hurley, Mitchell, Sheahan (M).

### **(b) Limerick Cultural Strategy: A Framework 2016-2030**

Circulated, report of the Chair of the Culture and Arts Working Group dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, outlining recommendations on the proposed 2017 allocation of €600,000 for actions to support the implementation of the Limerick Cultural Strategy: A Framework 2016-2030.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the recommendations on the proposed 2017 allocation of €600,000 for actions to support the implementation of the Limerick Cultural Strategy: A Framework 2016-2030, as set out in report of the Chair of the Culture and Arts Working Group dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.”

### **(c) Open Call Festivals and Events Grant Scheme**

Circulated, report of the Chair of the Culture and Arts Working Group dated 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, setting out recommendations on the proposed allocation of funding for the Open Call Festivals and Event Grant Scheme.

A general discussion took place on the Limerick Cultural Strategy and the Open Call Festivals and Events Grants Scheme and the following points were made by Members:

- Agreed procedure for the allocation of grants had not been put in place.
- Concern expressed in relation to the level of funding allocated to EVA International.
- List of unsuccessful applicants requested.
- Was a staff member sitting on any of the Bodies which had received funding.
- Concern was expressed in relation to getting value for money for events.

In relation to New Year's Eve Fireworks Display, mixed views were expressed by the Members and while some Members were in support of the event, others considered that the cost of running the event was substantial.

The Director of Regional Services, in response, stated that the procedure in place for deciding on the allocation of funding under the Grant Scheme was open and transparent. She said that all Festivals and Events Grant Applications were assessed by a panel which was composed of experts in the area of festivals and events, and Elected Members Councillor Keary, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick (acting as Chair of the panel) and Cmhrl. Ó Ceallaigh (Chair of the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee). She added that grant-aid was awarded according to the aims and objectives for culture included in the Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan, Limerick Cultural Strategy, the Creative Ireland Programme, Limerick Heritage Plan and the Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan. She confirmed that the Arts Officer was a Board Member on EVA International and, in this regard, she confirmed that she had not been involved in the process for deciding on funding that had been allocated to that Body.

Proposed by Councillor Crowley;  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the recommendations on the proposed allocation of funding for the Open Call Festivals and Events Grant Scheme, as set out in the report of the Chair of the of the Culture and Arts Working Group dated 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.”

**(d) Part VIII Procedure – Proposed N24 Beary’s Cross Road Improvement Scheme**

Circulated, report of the Administrative Officer, Mid-West National Road Design Office, dated 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, enclosing Chief Executive’s Report prepared pursuant to Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000, as amended, and Part V111 of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, in relation to the proposed N24 Beary’s Cross Road Improvement Scheme.

It was proposed to proceed with the development as outlined in the Planning Report.

Members welcomed the proposed development and it was noted that the scheme had been brought to the October Meetings of both the Metropolitan District and the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock for consideration and discussion.



## **6. Social Development Directorate**

### **Community Initiative Scheme 2017**

Circulated, report of the Administrative Officer, Social Development, dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, seeking the Council's approval to the recommendations for countywide allocations to various Groups and Organisations under the 2017 Community Initiative Scheme and setting out the background to the recommended allocations.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;  
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);  
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the recommended allocations to various Groups and Organisations totalling €15,000, as set out in the report of the Administrative Officer, Social Development, dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, under the 2017 Community Initiative Scheme, in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended."

## **7. Physical Development Directorate**

### **Limerick City and County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws 2017 to regulate sulky racing on public roads in Limerick.**

Circulated, report of the Director, Physical Development, dated 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, enclosing (a) report of the Physical Development Directorate on the Draft Limerick City and County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws, 2017, the purpose of which was to regulate sulky racing on public roads in Limerick; and (b) copy of the Draft Limerick City and County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Crowley;  
Seconded by Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh;  
And Resolved:

"That, the Limerick City and County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws, 2017, as circulated, be and are hereby adopted, in accordance with the Control of Horses Act, 1996, as amended."

## **8. Conferences**

### **(i) Participation by Members at Conferences**

Details of the following Conferences had been circulated electronically to the Members: (a) Developing a Sustainable Heritage Tourism Sector in Small Irish Towns, held in Buttevant, Co. Cork, on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2017; (b) National Public Participation Network Conference held in Sligo Town on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2017; (c) M20 Economic Corridor held in

Charleville, Co. Cork, on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2017; (d) Planning Across Boundaries in a Changing Context, held in Dundalk, Co. Louth, on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2017; (e) Rebuilding Ireland - Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2017; (f) Housing in Crisis – Defining the Role of the Councillor, held in Wexford on 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> November, 2017; (g) World nZeb Forum 2017, held in Wexford on 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017; (h) 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Tourism Policy Workshop, held in Dromoland, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare, on 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> November, 2017; (i) Invasive Exotic Species of Wildlife in Irish Rivers, Canals and Lakes, held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2017; (j) Audit Committees in the Irish Local Government System, to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2017; (k) Insolvency Services in Ireland, to be held in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2017; (l) A Practical Guide to Budget 2018, to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2017; (m) Excel Training for Councillors on Cashflow and Budget Spreadsheet, to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> December, 2017; (n) Local Authorities and Regional Assemblies Managing Executive Governance, to be held in Galway on 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> December, 2017; (o) ODCE – Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement, to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2017.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the Council approved the attendance of the following Members:

**Sligo:** Councillor Scanlan.

**Dundalk:** Councillor O’Hanlon.

**Carlingford, Co. Louth (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2017):** Councillors Collins (M), Galvin, Gilligan, Teefy.

**Clonakilty, Co. Cork (8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2017):** Councillors Browne, Crowley, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, Lynch.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the Council approved the attendance of the following Members at Conferences already approved:

**Conference “Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh 2017” held in Ros Muc, Co. Galway, from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2017:** Councillor O’Hanlon.

**Conference “A Practical Guide to Budget 2018” held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2017:** Councillor Foley.

## **(ii) Reports on Conference/Seminar/Meeting/Event**

Circulated, reports by Members who had participated at Conference/ Seminar/ Meeting/Event.

The reports were noted by the Members.

## **QUESTIONS**

Replies to the following Questions on the Agenda were circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting and the Questions were therefore considered as having been dealt with:

### **9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) how many overground slurry systems are in Co. Limerick, (b) how many have bunded areas; and (c) what is the average cost to install bunded areas around these systems.

**REPLY:** It is believed that, based on permissions granted, there are approximately 230 overground slurry towers in Co. Limerick.

The Council cannot confirm how many of these towers have bunds, but believes it is likely that relatively few of the towers have bunds.

Where bunds are being put in place, they are generally installed at the time of construction, remote from the tank using the soil removed from the excavation for the tank and existing landscape features. The cost is therefore just that associated with having a machine and driver on site and is generally fairly minimal.

As such, it is difficult to quantify an average cost as the cost of putting in place the bund will vary from case to case having regard to the size of the bund, the gradient of the land, time of construction etc.

### **10. Question submitted by Cmhr. S. Ó Ceallaigh**

I will ask at the next Meeting how many tenants of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme are not on the housing list as requiring public housing.

**REPLY:** In order to be eligible for HAP supports, all applicants must, in the first instance, qualify for the housing waiting list. All applicants in receipt of HAP are in receipt of social housing support. HAP tenants are entitled to remain on the transfer list for consideration for a social housing tenancy. Our records indicate that all HAP tenants have opted to remain on the housing transfer list.

### **11. Question submitted by Cmhr. S. Ó Ceallaigh**

I will ask at the next Meeting how many dogs have been seized by Limerick City and County Council in 2017, how many were registered, how many were reclaimed, how many were re-homed, and how many were put down.

**REPLY:** The following table shows dog control statistics for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2017, to 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017. The Dog Register does not include data regarding the licensing of dogs:

<b>Dog Control Statistics to 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017</b>	
<b>Dogs Seized / surrendered</b>	<b>486</b>
<b>Dogs Reclaimed</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Dogs Re-homed</b>	<b>353</b>
<b>Dogs put to sleep</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>In Pound on 21/11/2017</b>	<b>8</b>

**12. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville**

I will ask at the next Meeting for a breakdown in tabular form of the reasons (e.g. mould, fire safety etc.) private rented accommodation has failed inspections so far this year.

**REPLY:** The table below sets out in tabular form the reasons for non-compliance with the current standards for private rented properties for inspections carried out between 1 January, 2017 and 30 September, 2017. There was a total of 747 properties inspected during this period.

The relevant standards are the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017, which commenced 1 July, 2017.

<b>Regulation No.</b>	<b>Subject of Regulation</b>	<b>Number of Non-Compliances Recorded</b>
Regulation 4	Structural Condition	449
Regulation 5	Sanitary Facilities	92
Regulation 6	Heating Facilities	115
Regulation 7	Food Preparation, Storage and Laundry	336
Regulation 8	Ventilation	415
Regulation 9	Lighting	36
Regulation 10	Fire Safety	327
Regulation 11	Refuse Facilities	9
Regulation 12	Gas, Oil and Electricity	747
Regulation 13	Information	45

Below is an indicative list on the most common types of non-compliances with the Regulations identified during inspections in 2017:

**Regulation 4 - Structural Condition:**

Presence of Mould on Walls/Ceilings.

Window seals/hinges in poor condition.

Window restrictors required in upstairs windows (since July 2017).

Miscellaneous items: Clean gutters, replace missing drain grates, bath/shower seals in poor condition, kitchen counter top seal in poor conditions etc.

**Regulation 5 - Sanitary Facilities:**

Toilet seat/lid missing.

**Regulation 6 - Heating Facilities:**

Radiator (usually electrical) not working.

**Regulation 7 - Food Preparation, Storage and Laundry:**

Fridge with ice box to be replaced by fridge freezer or fridge & freezer.

Cooker extractor not present or not ducted to the external air.

**Regulation 8 - Ventilation:**

Habitable rooms without wall or window vents.

Bathroom/shower room extractors required to overrun (where no windows are present).

**Regulation 9 - Lighting:**

External window not provided in habitable room.

**Regulation 10 - Fire Safety:**

Fire blanket missing.

Suitable Fire alarms required in all hallways & landings.

Emergency evacuation plan required for flats/apartments.

**Regulation 11 - Refuse Facilities:**

Area to be provided to suitably store bins (in multi-unit buildings).

**Regulation 12 - Gas, Oil & Electricity:**

A Periodic Inspection Report by a Safe Electric registered electrician required for electrical installations in the property.

An RGII Certificate of conformance for gas installations in property required.

Periodic Inspection Report required from a suitably competent person required for the oil installation.

**Regulation 13 - Information (since July 2017)**

Sufficient information on the rented property (written) not available to tenant.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville**

I will ask at the next Meeting for details as to the amount of Development Levies collected this year, as compared to last year, and also a comparison in terms of the number of planning applications received and their scale this year compared to last year.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council has collected €2,513,299 to date in 2017. In 2016, €2,795,211 was collected.

The total number of planning applications received to 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017, is 1,147, while the total number of planning applications received for all of 2016 was 1,216. This would include any type of development where planning permission is required as per the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

**I will move at the next Meeting that the Ministers for Finance and Environment be requested to review current Local Property Tax legislation, thereby allowing a discount order to apply for Pensioners who reside on their own.**

Councillor Scanlan, in proposing the Motion, asked for the Members' support in calling on the Ministers for Finance and Environment to review current Local Property Tax legislation, which would allow a discount to apply for pensioners who resided on their own.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin and agreed.

**Suspension of Standing Orders:** The Mayor drew attention to the time which was approaching 5.30pm and on the proposal of Councillor Secas, seconded by Councillor Galvin, Standing Orders were suspended in order to complete the Agenda.

### **15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

**I will move at the next Meeting that farmers who have built overground slurry storage systems and complied with the Department guidelines/planning permission at the time of construction must be grant-aided to carry out any upgrading works (to include bunded areas) required by the Council, and call on the Department of Agriculture to provide the required grant-aid.**

Councillor Galvin, in proposing the Motion, said that farmers who had built overground slurry storage systems had done so in accordance with Department of Agriculture Guidelines, with the assistance of Department Grants, and subject to planning permission granted by the Council. He referred to letter that had been sent by the Council to a number of farmers with overground slurry holding facilities advising of pending inspections of same. He pointed out that farmers were concerned at the financial implications of these inspections in terms of direct costs in relation to the possible construction of bunds to hold slurry temporarily in the event of a spillage from these slurry tanks. He concluded by stating that the Council should call on the Department of Agriculture to provide grant-aid for any upgrading works.

Councillor Teskey, in seconding the Motion, said this matter had been discussed in detail at a Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale and, at that Meeting, it had been agreed that a presentation provided to the Members there by the Senior Executive Engineer, Physical Development, would be drawn up as a brochure and circulated to farmers who had already been contacted by the Council, together with a covering letter outlining the Council's concerns and recommendations. He asked if the brochure and letter had been circulated.

The Motion was agreed.

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors S. Keary, C. McMahon, E. O'Brien, R. O'Donoghue, K. Sheahan, A. Teskey**

**We will move at the next Meeting that this Council call on the Department of Agriculture to grant-aid the retrospective fitting of ballcock controlled, electronically alarmed valves, located in reception tanks, to control the discharge of slurry from overground slurry stores to these reception tanks.**

Councillor Teskey, in proposing the Motion, referred to the potential to install a ballcock-controlled valve on reception tanks, as a fail-safe device. He asked for the Members' support in calling on the Department of Agriculture to grant-aid the retrospective fitting of ballcock-controlled, electronically alarmed valves, located in reception tanks, to control the discharge of slurry from overground slurry stores to these reception tanks.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor O' Donoghue and agreed.

Councillor Teskey also proposed that the Council call on the Department of Agriculture to extend the slurry spreading season. The Motion was seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed.

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Lynch (to be referred to Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)**

**I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council (a) support the establishment of an Annual National "Make Way Day;" (b) call on the Government to support the establishment and funding of an Annual National "Make Way Day" with a local campaign in each region; and (c) promote a local "Make Way Limerick" campaign as part of the wider "Make Way Day."**

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhr. S. Ó Ceallaigh (to be referred to Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee)**

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council utterly condemn the letting of substandard accommodation, both publicly and privately, and commit to ensuring that its own housing stock is up to standard, as well as ensuring that appropriate action is taken against landlords letting substandard accommodation.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

**19. Correspondence**

The Correspondence circulated with the Agenda was taken as read.

**Ecumenical Service**

The Mayor advised the Members that it was his intention to hold an Ecumenical Service to celebrate the feast of Christmas. He added that Members would be circulated with the relevant details in the coming days.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ORDERS:**

The Register of Orders made by the Chief Executive up to the date of the Meeting was available on Alfresco for inspection by the Members.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:**

The Register of Decisions on Applications under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) was also available on Alfresco for inspection by the Members.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor**

Dated: